

COUNCIL
2 OCTOBER 2025

OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Performance Indicators – Quarter 4 2024-25

2. We welcomed the Assistant Director Children's Services who provided members with performance information for quarter 4 2024-25 in line with an indicator set agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 2 July 2018, and subsequently by Scrutiny Committee Chairs.
3. Points of note were provided to members which included the overall reduction in admissions of children to Children's Social Care alongside a reduction in Child Protection Plan numbers and fewer children overall requiring statutory social care aid. The numbers of children reported missing has also shown noticeable reductions and has been a subject of targeted work previously.
4. Areas for development were also highlighted which included Child Protection Investigation timeframes and continued work on improving placement stability.
5. Questions were raised which included the definition of "external agencies", being full trained members of partner agencies such as those working in education settings. It was also asked whether the timeframes for Child Protection Investigations can be adjusted with officers confirming that timeframes are not set on a local level. A member also asked for information on current staff retention with the response that recruitment and retention is currently at its most positive level for a number of years with the numbers of agency staff reducing as a result.
6. We noted the performance information provided and agreed to raise any relevant queries to the relevant Assistant Directors.

Work Programme

7. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2025/26 municipal year.

Councillor Hilary Allen
Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee